

# Idaho Trade Token Newsletter

Boise, Idaho

July, 1998

Volume 2, Number 7

## News

The countdown to our Salmon gathering is well underway. Dean Rasmussen has finalized the arrangements and we are sure to have a great time. Refer to the May [Newsletter](#) for the agenda. Earlybirds meet for dinner at 7 p.m. Friday, July 17 at the Shady Nook steak house. Saturday events start at 8 a.m. and continue through our "official" meeting at 6 p.m., Saturday, July 18 in the Lemhi Room of the Stagecoach Inn. Dean is writing for a "press release" for the Salmon newspaper that will include an offer for people with tokens to contact us.

I have 500 stickers to make "sticker dollars" with. At this point, I think I will include 50 with this mailing to those of you who have indicated that you plan to attend. If you are coming, gather up 50 Susan B. Anthony dollar coins to sticker and spend in the Salmon area. And drop me a postcard if you haven't already e-mailed me to let me know you are coming and need a supply of stickers. These will go to the first 10 people who are attending.

Bring your families (I am sure they can find entertainment in the form of golf, swimming, fishing, relaxing, etc.), your trading stock of tokens, whetstones to show Dean, and any other ephemera which might be of interest to the group. Please also remember to bring some examples of fake tokens from your collection so everyone can get familiarized with them. I wouldn't advise bringing your whole collection, but it might be fun to bring your Lemhi County tokens in case we have a chance to show them off to the populace there.

Again this year, I am planning on putting these letters in the special Boise River Festival post office and getting a Thursday cancellation. They have a special cancel for each of the four days of the festival, but the Thursday one is available only after 4 p.m. that day, so it is scarce.

## Favorites

Everyone has a favorite token, perhaps more than one. Let me know which one is your favorite, and I will attempt to write an article about the business that used it. It might be fun to incorporate a bit of a contest with this. So, let me know your favorite token, write the story about it (or I will), and I will run the story and everyone can guess whose favorite it is.

## Fakes revisited

Greg Manos indicated that there is a fake [Mullan] which says BOLO / W. G. LANGDON // GOOD FOR / 10¢ / IN TRADE 21mm Rd Br. I was aware of the die (in fact there is also a 29mm die with similar legend), but not of the fake token. He also reminded me of the UTAH IDAHO CENTRAL RAILROAD CO. / TOOL / CHECK // GOOD FOR / 12½¢ / IN TRADE 25mm Rd Al. I had seen one of these in Lynn Langdon's book last summer, but as the company was headquartered in Logan, UT, I elected not to list it with the Idaho fakes. Hindsight tells me that it probably should be with them as it says Idaho on it.

Greg also gave me some information on a group of other Idaho fakes offered in a 1991 Charles Kirtley mail bid sale, although they apparently were not indicated as such. We should share the story of those with other Idaho collectors as well, so if anyone has a copy of that Kirtley sale, I would appreciate a copy so I can make up a list for the group. Also, what are the diagnostics of these fakes? My understanding is that they were not of S L Stamp Co. dies.

## **Lemhi County tokens**

Lemhi County was established by the Idaho Territorial Legislature in 1869, taking its name from the Mormon establishment Fort Lemhi, which was the site of the Salmon River mission. Here's the current list of tokens I know from the county. All carry both town and state unless otherwise noted.

### ***Gibbonsville***

R. BENNETT  
DEMONT & KERN

### ***Gilmore***

BENEDICT & WILSON (Maverick)  
BLAZING RAG SALOON  
GILMORE POOL HALL (Town only)  
MIHLBERGER & BRITT

### ***Junction***

T. D. POWELL

### ***Leadore***

HOTEL LEADORE (Incomplete report)

### ***Leesburg***

MAHONEY (Maverick)

### ***Salmon***

WM ANDERSON (Maverick)  
JOE BOWDEN  
JOE BOWDEN'S (Maverick)  
BROUGH CORNER (Maverick)  
BROUGH & GERTRIDGE (Maverick)  
CRAMTON CIGAR STORE  
DEW DROP INN  
HARMONS  
K & A CLUB (Town only)  
KLONDIKE POOL ROOM  
HOTEL LEMHI BAR / WM. ANDERSON (Maverick)  
LIBBY & CO.  
J. C. MARTINELY / SALMON CITY (Town only)  
MINT BAR  
THOS. POPE / SALMON CITY (Town only)  
SHENON HOTEL BAR  
SMOKE HOUSE  
SMOKE HOUSE / M. & M.  
SMOKE HOUSE CAFÉ & BAR / HENRY W. BENSON  
(Maverick)  
SPELLMAN BROS.  
CHRIS VAN STRATT  
C. VAN STRATT (Maverick)  
CHRIS VANSTRATT (Maverick)

### ***Shoup***

B. & G. (Maverick)



### **Consolidated Stores of Fremont County** by Dean Rasmussen

The first dated token I found was CONSOLIDATED STORES LTD. / 1917 / FREMONT, IDA. It is a neat token, but one that has always raised some questions in my mind. The problem was the 1917 date. A small farming community called Fremont, a few miles southeast of Ashton in Fremont County, was first established around 1900 by D. H. Kelly. Bill Warnke built a general store there, which was bought by Howard Campbell in 1903 and moved to the Highland Ranch, a few miles south of Fremont and nearer to the growing community of Squirrel. In 1909 Charles Burrall came to the area and purchased the store. Around 1912 he had a new store built in Squirrel which he ran until 1918. Squirrel had a post office from 1900 until 1979 whereas Fremont had one only from 1903 to 1907. The community of Fremont, now called Kelly, never grew like Squirrel and never really developed much after 1910. Squirrel on the other hand continued to grow. Charles Burrall ran his store there until selling it to Alex Johnson in 1918 who ran it for another 30 years. Burrall moved to Ashton and ran the Burrall & Schroll store, later changing partners to become Burrall & Stone.

The theory that I have heard over the years and that has been generally accepted by most collectors and local people was that the Burrall store in Squirrel was the store that issued the Consolidated Stores (CS) tokens in 1917. Recently, however, I found some information that I think tells the true story of the Consolidated Stores. The 1916-17 Fremont County Directory lists Consolidated Stores Co. under the general stores heading in Marysville, Newdale, St. Anthony and Teton. It also lists Burrall & Co. in Squirrel and Drummond, but does not list them as part of Consolidated Stores.



The Home of the Gillett Mercantile Company.

Some additional research led me to the founder of the Consolidated Stores, Heber C. Sharp. According to the Salt Lake City, Utah Deseret Evening News of December 20, 1902, "Heber Sharp was born in Salt Lake City and graduated from the L. D. S. Business College there in .

1897. He worked for Z. C. M. I. and Clark, Eldridge & Co. there before moving to Rexburg in 1902. He, in conjunction with Victor Hegsted and Chris Jenson, built a large rock building. They bought out the Rexburg Mercantile Co. and began the Sharp Grocery & Supply Co. and the Hegsted-Jenson general store. The Idaho Hotel was also housed in this building which still stands on the south side of West Main Street. Bingham Furniture is the current occupant.

According to the April 12, 1906 Rexburg Current Journal, Heber C. Sharp sold his interest in the Sharp Grocery Co. to Hegsted-Jenson and Earl in 1906. The next record I can find of him has him buying the Driggs Hotel in Driggs in 1914. He was then living in St. Anthony and was involved with real estate and development. In October, 1915 he purchased 159 lots of the original St. Anthony townsite and sold 82 of them to the city for a park. The Teton Peaks Chronicle also tells about him getting his third new Reo automobile in the past three years. He is also listed as being associated with the Commercial National Bank of St. Anthony.

According to state records, Consolidated Stores Ltd. incorporated on August 9, 1915 in St. Anthony. The 1916-17 Fremont County Directory shows Heber C. Sharp as President and Robert Rohlfling as Secretary. Rohlfling had moved to Marysville in the spring of 1915 from Portland, Oregon. He and Sharp bought an existing mercantile business and began renovating another business on Main Street in Marysville. They are listed in the 1915 and 1916 Idaho Gazetteers as Sharp-Rohlfling in the general store headings.

Their business pattern seems to have been to buy existing businesses in surrounding communities and then start to build a new store for their business. St. Anthony was the supply point for the nearby towns and became their corporate headquarters. The December 21, 1916 Teton Peaks Chronicle states "the west storeroom and basement of the Burnett Hotel in St. Anthony is being occupied by the CS as a storage house, the two floors being stored full of boxed goods for distribution to the various houses in the county."

By 1917 Robert Rohlfling is listed as the manager of the Teton branch of the CS. I'm not sure who took over the management of the Marysville store at this time. Newdale began as a grain shipping point in 1914 and was incorporated in 1917. The February 15, 1917 Teton Peaks

Chronicle states "The Consolidated Stores are having gravel hauled for a new store on Main Street". They didn't last long in Newdale before being bought out by the Hegsted-Jenson Co. of Rexburg in August, 1917. Hegsted-Jenson closed out their stock in the fall of 1918 there and shipped the remaining stock back to Rexburg. Ben. F. Gillette (Gillett) who had managed the Teton Mercantile Co. store in Teton since 1915 moved to Newdale in the spring of 1919 and opened the Gillette Mercantile Co. in the Consolidated Stores building. I also found a reference to the CS building a store in Ashton around 1916 but couldn't find any additional information. I suspect that the Fremont Mercantile Co. in Teton was operated by the CS



in 1917 and 1918, but I don't have proof of that yet. The state records of incorporation show that the Consolidated Stores was reorganized December 1, 1920, but I find no references to them after that date.

All indications point to these tokens being issued for use in all the Consolidated Stores operations in Fremont County rather than the town of Fremont. I guess the moral of the story is that we've lost a town but gained a county token! [I will list these tokens under St. Anthony as that was the "corporate headquarters", but with a note of explanation under Fremont - JM]

The known tokens from Consolidated Stores are similar in design, typical of many general merchandise store "sets". It appears that the Salt Lake Stamp Company, whose logo appears on one side of each of the denominations, economized a bit by using the same die for the 50¢ and \$5 and for the \$1 and \$10 pieces. To easily differentiate between the two same-size values, the more valuable ones were made of brass and the lower denominated ones were aluminum. The CS tokens are all very scarce:

5¢ - 2 known	\$1 - 4 known
10¢ - 1 known	\$5 - 3 known
25¢ - 1 known	\$10 - 2 known
50¢ - 4 known	

### Washington Trade Tokens

Al Erickson's new book, Washington State Trade Tokens is now in collectors' hands. It is a nice, 600+-page hardbound in the 8 1/2 by 11 format. Erickson lists tokens in the traditional form alphabetically by merchant within each town. He uses a rarity scale on all but the Seattle tokens. He gives a small history of each town, but few businesses are described or dated. A few plates of photographs are provided illustrating one token per town. A nice maverick index is included along with several other appendices of pertinent information.

It is \$70 postpaid from Mike & Barbara Patton, P. O. Box 1365, Ocean Shores, WA 98569.

### Lew Egnew's Article

In the June, 1998 issue of NATCA's Talkin' Tokens is an excellent article by Lew Egnew describing the process of token manufacture. Lew was employed by the Puget Sound Stamp Works in Seattle for a number of years starting in 1939. I do not recognize the products of this company by sight, but probably quite a few northern Idaho tokens came from there. If anyone knows of specific tokens from the PSSW, please share it with the group.

### J. W. Yocum

Many of the people who operated token-using businesses left few records; often the tokens we collect are the only clue to their career in Idaho. Some Idaho businesspeople achieved wide recognition, and were written about extensively, but for most the newspaper accounts are very small and difficult to find.



This 21mm aluminum token is fairly common, and all of the 20 or so I know of appear to be uncirculated. The Idaho World of Idaho City reported on October 24, 1913 that "J. W.

Yocum last Monday purchased James Horenberger's confectionery store on Wall Street". On September 10, 1915 the paper said, "J. W. Yocum went down to Boise Wednesday to purchase a stock of confectionery"; the same day that the Boise [Idaho Statesman](#) stated that "'Dock' Yocum of Idaho City is visiting Boise".

The Bradstreet Directories for 1914 through 1929 list "J. W. Yocum - conf & cigars", and the 1916 [Idaho Gazetteer](#) gives his first name: "John W. Yocum - cigars tobacco, pool, etc.". The [Statesman](#) on August 17, 1931 said that "J. W. Yocum, 76, died Sunday morning at a local hospital. He had made his home in Idaho City for several years." The next day it reported that Yokum, who had no known relatives, was buried in Boise's Morris Hill Cemetery. Sad to say, there's more to his story, but this may be all we will ever know about Dock Yocum.

## **Passing of an Era**

On July 1, 1998, Idaho's Notary Public law will change to eliminate the traditional embossing seal. New or renewing notaries will be required to obtain a rubber stamp for notarizing documents. Corporate seal embossing devices have been collectibles for years, with only a few notary devices on the market. Probably there will be quite a few notary seals available soon.

Another legal change which may affect Idaho researchers is the new law on assumed business names. Previous to January 1, 1997, John Doe, proprietor of the Pastime Pool Hall was required to go to his county recorder and record the fact that he was the person doing business as the Pastime. Even though the penalty for noncompliance was a misdemeanor, I have found very few businesses (of the token-issuing period) actually recorded the information. For token research, that is unfortunate because it could make for a very useful tool. Now the law is that this filing is to be done at the Secretary of State's office and the penalty for not filing is eliminated. I am not sure whether there will be many filings under the new law as it costs \$20 for a 5-year filing. Under the new law, failure to file only results in an incapacity for the business to file suit.

## **Notice**

As I have stated in the past, this publication is free to those who have shared their token holdings with me for cataloguing purposes and/or contribute articles for the good of the hobby. If you do neither, a subscription is available. If your name is dropped from the list, there is a reason.

Best regards,

John D. Mutch  
7931 Crestwood Drive  
Boise, ID 83704-3022

E-mail: [tokens@micron.net](mailto:tokens@micron.net)